

THE FIRST 100 YEARS

1907 -2007

A History of

Knights of Columbus
Monsignor Doyle Council 1186
Calgary, Alberta



THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

1907 - 2007

A HISTORY OF KNIGHTS OF

COLUMBUS MONSIGNOR DOYLE

COUNCIL 1186

CALGARY, ALBERTA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By permission of State Deputy, Peter Wong, the information for this booklet, from 1907 to 1995, was taken from "Knights of Columbus of Alberta (1907 - 1980) A Dedicated History" and "History Of The Knights Of Columbus Alberta - NWT State Council, Volume 2 (1980 - 1995)"

Compiled by E.T. Goetz

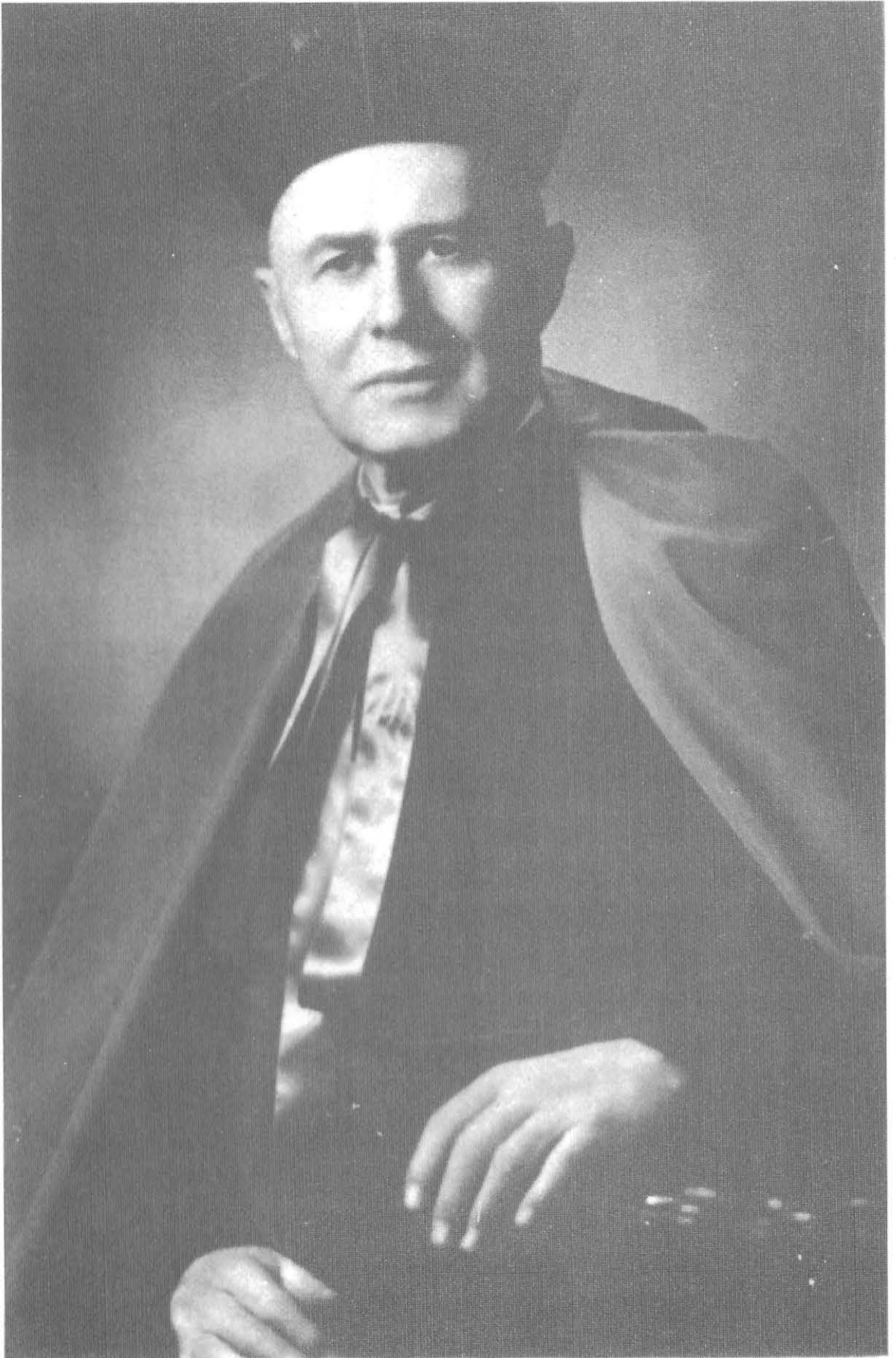
Edited by K.N. Beckie

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been prepared to provide a brief history of the first one hundred years in the existence of Monsignor Doyle Council 1186, Calgary. One of two Councils in Alberta that received their Charter on January 7, 1907, the other being Edmonton Council 1184. Preparation for the booklet was made easy, thanks to Brothers Charles W. Merta and Kenneth N. Beckie, historians for the Knights of Columbus in Alberta. We are truly grateful to these two brothers for having done the research and documentation of the first eighty eight years.

Until 1960 the Council was simply known as Calgary Council 1186. In November 1960, fifty three years after its Charter, the name was changed to Monsignor Doyle Council in honor of the priest who was Chaplain for a record nineteen years (1929, 1930 and 1942 to 1958). In 1993 a new Catholic Elementary School was opened in northwest Calgary and named "Monsignor E.L. Doyle" in honor of the Council's namesake.

Over the years Calgary Knights have carried out numerous projects which strengthened spiritual, family and community life through sports, drama, debating, choral and ecumenical works, an example being the famous KC Huts of both World Wars. We give thanks and praise to God for the many opportunities He has given through the Knights of Columbus to serve our Church and community.



Rt. Rev. Monsignor Edwin Lawrence Doyle

MONSIGNOR DOYLE COUNCIL 1186
2006 - 2007 EXECUTIVE

Chaplain	Fr. Edmund Vargas
Grand Knight	Elmer T. Goetz
Deputy Grand Knight	Martin McDonald
Financial Secretary	Joseph MacNeil
Chancellor	Kenneth N. Beckie
Treasurer	Doug Elder
Recorder	Kevin Byrne
Advocate	Colin Lo
Warden	John Arraf
Lecturer	Les Smith
Outside Guard	Chris Irving
Inside Guard	Reginold Tyo
Trustee	Frank McLash
Trustee	Leon Sherger
Trustee	Brian Wynker

MONSIGNOR DOYLE COUNCIL 1186

GRAND KNIGHTS

1907	Patrick J. Nolan K.C *	1959/60	John V. (Curly) Hunt
1908	Patrick J Bergeron	1960/61	Stanley A. Rokosh
1909	Edward F. Ryan K.C. *	1961/62	Len Rice
1910/12	James M. Sullivan *	1962/64	Elmer T. Goetz
1912/14	Dr. Michael C. Costello	1964/65	William Balyk
1914/16	James B. Creagan *	1965/66	George L. Huber
1916	Dr. Charles J. Coleman	1966/67	Kenneth N. Beckie
1917	James S. Ryan	1967/68	Alvin Schwebius
1918	Dr. Edward J. Madden *	1968/69	William Balyk
1919	Judge Harry Lunney	1969/70	Courtney A. Hughes
1920	James M. Sullivan *	1970/71	Clinton J. Carmody
1921	Archie Murphy	1971/72	Matthew F. Angebrandt
1922/24	Edward A. Thompson	1972/73	Lou E. Tremblay
1924/26	James J, McGuire	1973/74	Edward V. Langton
1926	Dan N. O'Byrne	1974/75	Matthew F. Angebrandt
1927	Joseph A. McGee	1975/76	Donald V. Grant
1928/30	Phil V. Burgard	1976/77	Clifford Howes
1930	James B. McGuire K.C.	1977/78	Donatus Weisgerber
1930/32	Fred Kenny *	1978/80	Eric Gale
1932/34	Dr. J. Murray McCaffery	1980/82	Noel Dodge
1934/35	John J. Tighe	1982/83	Harley Langton
1935/37	Ray Cannon *	1983/84	Leon Sherger
1937/39	Frank J. Trainor *	1984/86	Adolph Schaffler
1939/41	Art T. Kloepfer *	1986/87	Al Meier
1941/42	Fairlie Spark	1987/88	Alfred Grainger
1942/44	Thomas E. McKenna *	1988/89	John Boletta
1944/45	Charles J. Thomas *	1989/91	Peter Dodge
1945/48	Charles C. Connolly *	1991/93	Doug Elder
1948/49	Edward J. O'Connor	1993/94	Norman Cornish
1949/51	Joseph J. Comessotti	1994/95	Edward V. Langton
1951/53	John V. Van Tighem	1995/97	Clarence LePage
1953/55	Leonard C. Hergott *	1997/99	Les Smith
1955/56	Joseph O. Murphy	1999/01	Patrick Balyk
1956/57	Larry F. Frantz	2001/02	Timothy Cornish
1957/58	Edward Torsher	2002/04	Hany Farag
1958/59	S. Russell Hampton	2004/06	Bert Podruzny

*Past State Deputies

Note - McGuire was GK to July 1930

IN THE BEGINNING

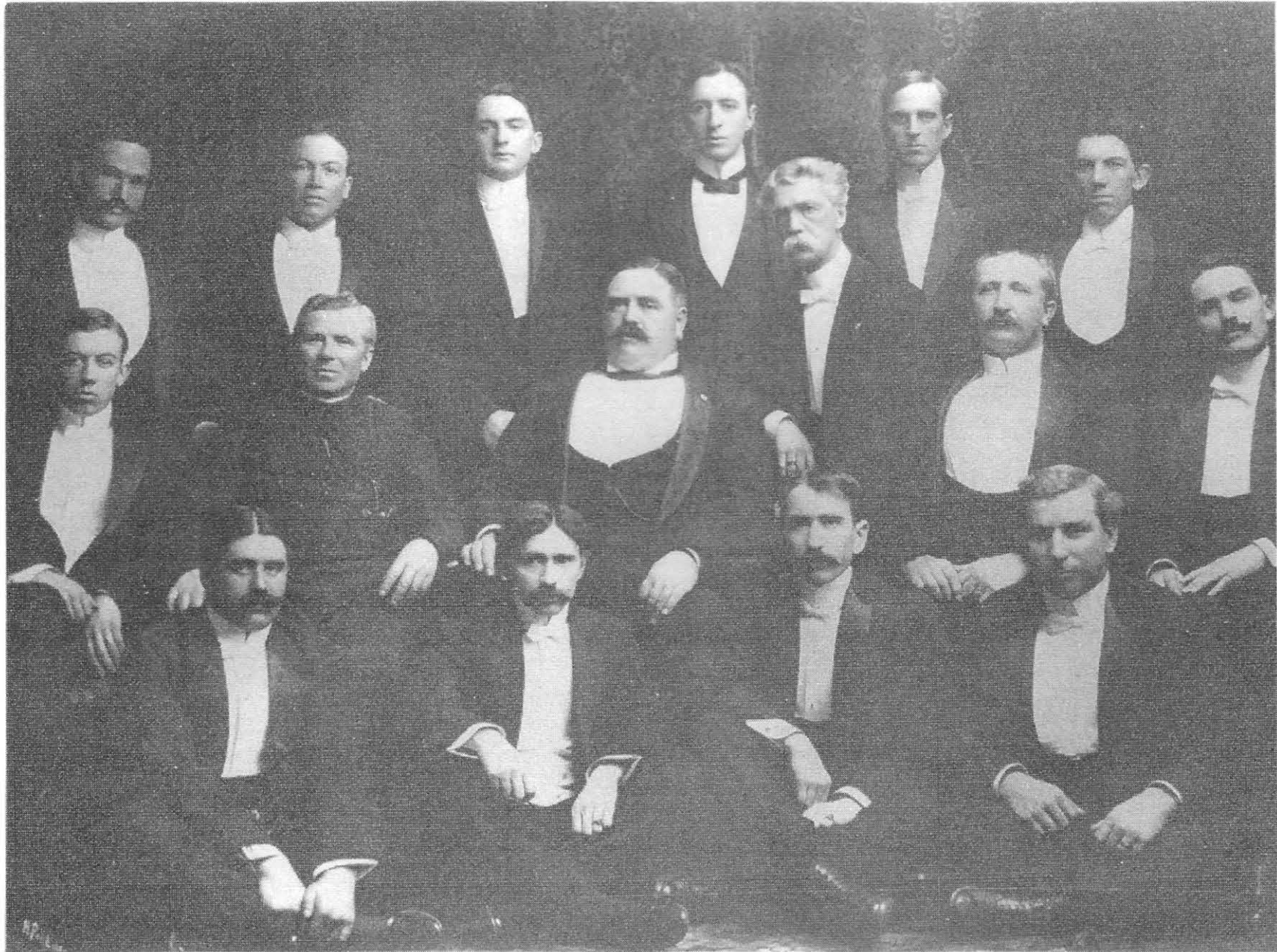
It was Monday January 7, 1907 and reportedly -54F, (-46C) the beginning of one of the bitterest and most disastrous winters of pioneering in the west - a winter in which most of Western Canada's cattle froze. It was this bitter day that gave birth to the fourth Knights of Columbus Council in Western Canada, Calgary Council 1186. It was five years before Calgary Diocese was formed, and fifty one years before formation of Calgary's second council

Headlines in the Calgary Herald of January 8, 1907, stated that at 10:00 a.m., a special train arrived from Edmonton bearing 120 Knights and their ladies from Winnipeg and Edmonton. (this trip was the longest any society had traveled to install secret orders). They had just come from forming Council 1184 in Edmonton the day before. The men went immediately to St. Mary's Recreation Hall (now Alberta Ballet's Nat Christie Centre) at 141 - 18th Avenue S.W., to proceed with the initiation of 62 Charter Members. From the hours of 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m., the visiting Knights had a splendid time putting aspirants for membership through the forms of initiation. A banquet was held in Alexander Hall (site of the present downtown Hudson's Bay Store) for over 250 guests. Some of the guests were heard to say, "Calgary was a most solid looking town". Calgary had a population of 14,000 at that time. The Master of the Degree Team was Brother J.F. Martin of Green Bay Wisconsin - a mild unassuming, bright, clerical looking man.

It was in response to the desires of 12 men who had been members of the Knights of Columbus in Eastern Canada, or the U.S.A., that John Penfold, a traveling salesman for Fairbanks Morse Electric from Montreal, and a Charter member of Montreal Council, obtained permission from Bishop Legal in Edmonton, to form the Calgary Council. Ed F. Ryan, in the January 1929 Pilot (the Council news letter) stated that John Penfold was founder of Calgary Council 1186. He set things in motion, then took sick, went back east, and died on January 26, 1907 in Montreal., much to the sorrow of his friends in Council 1186. Correspondence dated November 10, 1905, from the Council's first Chaplain, Father Alphonse Lemarchand of St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary, to Bishop Legal in St. Albert,

(Alberta Provincial Archives, Oblate Papers), indicates that he acted as intermediary for Paddy Nolan and several others:

“You will receive the Constitution of the Knights of Columbus, which will explain what the signers (of the letter) desire. Your Excellency will see on the marked pages that the merchants of liquor are excluded, as well as, those who work in hotels where liquor is sold. This is one of the reasons why I heartily approve, because I hope the Knights of Columbus will help us organize a temperance society. The members of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Society are not what we desire, and liquor is one of the reasons. The signers of the letter promise many good things if you allow them to organize. I hope they will help the members of the CMBA by their example and charity in their parochial efforts. Mr. Nolan will amend the Constitution of the club according to your suggestions. However, as regards the Easter Duty, he prefers being much stricter than you are, that is to say, the right to expel even in the first year, and I agree with him. Mr. Nolan, President of the club, continues to receive communion every eight days. It is unbelievable. “Your club is saved!” (translated from French)” According to Ed F. Ryan (1929) the Calgarians most likely to have petitioned Bishop Legal, were dentist Dr. A.V. Cashman (singled out for good work in instituting the Council, January 21 1907 minutes) Dr. Frank Sullivan, Thomas Traynor, James J. O’Gara, and from Winnipeg, Territorial Deputy T.D. Deegan.



Charter executive - January 1907

CHARTER MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Bergeron, Patrick J.
 Bryenton, H.
 Burns, M. John
 * Cashman, Dr. Aloysius V. (8)
 Chamberlain, Jack J. (11)
 Conroy, Francis J.
 Costello, Patrick J.
 Costello, Dr. Thomas J.
 Cullen, E. Gerald (4)
 * Delahunty, Richard
 Dennehy, H. F.
 Doyle, John O.
 Duggan, E. James T. (7)
 Esch, Adam H.
 * Fay, J. W.
 Fitzgerald, Thomas J.
 Flynn, Michael
 Forbes, George
 Gibbons, R. V.
 Hays, Daniel P.
 * Hays, Thomas E.
 Hiseler, James S.
 Keating, Byron T. (6)
 Kenny, Fred
 Lanigan, Patrick E.
 * Leger, Frank X. P.
 Lemarchand, Rev. A. (1)
 * Lyons, Peter B..
 McAuley, Tim A. (9)
 McCaffary, John J.
 McCormick, Daniel J.</p> | <p>McCormick, Eneas (12)
 McDonald, Alec J.
 McDonald, Allister S.
 * McDonald, Frank
 McDonald, Joseph C. (3)
 McElroy, Patrick M.
 McInnis, A. D.
 McIvor, T. J.
 McKinnon, John
 McMullin, J. V.
 McQuaid, Fr. O. P.
 Monaghan, John B.
 Navin, T. Harry
 Navin, W. A.
 Nolan, Patrick J. [K.C] (2)
 O'Driscoll, John M.
 * O'Gara, James J.
 Paradis, Paul (14)
 Plummer, Laurie H.
 Reilly, Clifford B. (5)
 Roe, Samuel H.
 Rouleau, Dr. E. Hector (13)
 * Ryan, Edward F.
 Sheedy, Mat J (10)
 * Sullivan, Dr. Frank (15)
 Sullivan, George L.
 Thompson, W. K.
 * Traynor, Thomas
 * Turcot, Dr. Charles
 Young, J. W.</p> |
|---|--|

* Members of the Knights of Columbus prior to 1907.

(1) Chaplain, (2) Grand Knight, (3) Deputy Grand Knight (4) Financial Secretary, (5) Chancellor, (6) Treasurer, (7) Recorder, (8) Warden, (9) Inside Guard, (10) Outside Guard, (11) Trustee, (12) Trustee, (13) Trustee, (14) Lecturer, (15) Physician

The collection of Charter members contained some remarkable men, the most prominent being the first Grand Knight, the famous, colorful, witty and brilliant criminal lawyer, P.J. "Paddy" Nolan, K.C. about whom much is written and published. Ironically, his death was not recorded in the Minutes of the Alberta State Convention, held only a few weeks after he passed away.

Paddy was educated in Ireland and came to Calgary in 1889. He was 43 years old in 1907, and only lived six more years. He stayed on as Grand Knight for 14 months. 1907 was a big year for Paddy; he was appointed Kings Council, and also, the first Territorial Deputy of the Knights of Columbus for Alberta, a position he held for two years. His ceremonial sword was presented to the Council in 1930 by his wife Mary, and is presently mounted in the Council Chambers. Paddy is buried in Banff Cemetery, his tombstone a memorial of this truly giant among Knights. Mr. Justice Stuart, in a eulogy stated, "His whole career was a proof of the most perfect and knightly courtesy, both to the court, and to the opposing council. His genial presence and kindly humor did much to alleviate the disagreeable aspect of courtroom work. He fulfilled his work with conspicuous ability, and in a manner that had scarcely been surpassed in any jurisdiction in the Dominion." Paddy was well known for his sense of humor, which is well documented in Grant MacEwan's book "He Left Them Laughing When He Said Good By." Here is a sample, "Paddy Nolan was traveling by train from New York to Calgary when he noticed a gent on the next seat with a scruffy looking dog. He decided to try and strike up a conversation, so he said, in his thick Irish brogue "My that's an interesting looking dog. What breed is it? The sour gentleman replied "it's a cross between an ape and an Irishman." "Well, well," said Paddy, "then we are both related to it."

Also among the Charter members were such men as:

* Patrick J. Bergeron, a lawyer (McGill 1903) who became the second Grand Knight, and was president of the Calgary Ranchmen's Club in 1919.

* Dr. Thomas J. Costello, son of Calgary's first school teacher.

* Dr. Thomas E. Hays, a veterinarian and dairyman who lived on the south edge of the City and for whom Haysboro District is named.

Father of former Mayor and Senator Harry Hays, and Grandfather of former Senator Dan Hays. He died in early 1968, the last Charter member to pass away.

* Fred Kenny, one of 1186's most distinguished Knights, Chairman of the Calgary Separate School Board for 25 years. State Secretary of the Knights of Columbus for 22 years (1911-1932)), State Deputy from 1933 to 1935 and more.

* Tim McAuley who became a millionaire through involvement in the natural gas business and many other businesses. He is listed in "Who's Who in Canada" from 1920 to 1931, and lived in Toronto after 1924

* Eneas McCormick, co-founder of Riley and McCormick, western outfitters. He was the model for the Boer War Statue in Central Park, and was prominent in Calgary affairs for many years.

* John McKinnon became Calgary Fire Chief in 1935.

* James J. O'Gara prominent architect in early Calgary, and designer of Council 1186's first meeting place.

* Clifford B. Reilly, a lawyer, was a director of the University of Calgary, and later a City Alderman. His name is displayed on the granite cornerstone of City Hall.

* Dr. Hector Rouleau, a Knight of "sterling qualities (eulogy)," was a prominent pioneer physician, and was 63 years of age in 1907

* Edward F. Ryan, third Grand Knight, first Alberta State Deputy, and responsible for formation of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree in Calgary on November 9, 1925. He was a lawyer partner with Paddy Nolan in 1907, and active as a Liberal politician. He lost out in an election in Calgary West Riding to the future Prime Minister R.B. Bennett.

* Dr. Frank Sullivan was the first Council Physician (for insurance purposes) and house physician for the Palliser Hotel for nearly 50 years.

* Dr. Charles Turcot from Pincher Creek, who eventually moved back to Quebec City where he became an internationally prominent pediatrician.

* Mr. John Burns MBE, (nephew of Pat Burns, prominent in Calgary affairs) He managed the Burns Company from 1934 until his death in 1953.

Of the 62 Charter members, the most common occupation

was that of a CPR railroader (10), twelve were university graduates, two were priests, two firemen. The rest were mostly clerks, small businessmen and farmers. Eleven lived outside Calgary. Most of the Calgarians lived near St. Mary's Cathedral. At least four died before age 50, and indications are that only 14 lived and died in Calgary (4 never married) By 1924, about 70% of the Charter members were no longer members of Council 1186.

MEMBERSHIP

In the following years Council 1186 had among its members, such distinguished people of the lay community as the Honorable J.J. Bowlen, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta from 1950 to 1959; Pat Burns, Senator from 1931 to 1937; Honorable Fred Colburne Jr. MLA; Dr. M.C. Costello, Mayor of Calgary from 1915 to 1918; Honorable Mr. Justice Harry Lunny; Mr. Justice W.A. MacDonald; Judge Luke Stack; and Judge Vincent Cooney, first Judge of the Canadian Citizenship Court for Southern Alberta. Also, C.B. Reilly, M.C. Costello, Eneas McCormick, F.C. Colburne Jr., and C.C. Connolly all served as alderman on City Council at one time or other. Council 1186 was honored to have had in its membership, Past Supreme Director Mike Colins.

Starting with 62 Charter members in January 1907, membership grew to 110 by year end, then climbed gradually to hit 300 in 1914, 400 in 1920, 500 in 1925, reaching an all time high of 569 in 1927. From 1927 membership gradually declined to a low of about 350 to 400 during the depression of the 1930's, and did not recover until after the second World War, when it reached a second peak of 552 in 1949.

Membership dues were \$1.00 per month for the first 40 years. Initiation fees were \$25.00 and reduced to \$15.00 in 1932. In 1936, out of town dues were reduced to \$6.00 per year. Currently Council dues are \$30.00, increasing to \$35.00 for late payment. Initiation fees have changed very little and are \$30.00 as at 2006.

The formation of 12 new councils in the mid to late 1950's and Holy Name's Msgr.Sullivan Council 7183 in 1978, all out of Council 1186 territory, drastically cut membership in half, from the

418 members in 1954 to 233 in 1966 to 218 in 1979. Council 1186 has often been called the “Mother Council” of all councils in southern Alberta. The decline continued as three new Parish Councils were carved out of it in the 1980’s, taking many of 1186’s younger members with them. (St. Michael’s Fr. Carroll Council 8636, St. Mary’s Msgr. Smith Council 9658 and St. James Council 10337). For good of the Order, there was an overall growth in the number of Knights for the area covered, and also an overall growth in the Order’s activities.

It was on March 9, 1989 that State Deputy Charles Pratt addressed the Council meeting, urging it to become a Parish Council, and affiliate itself with nearby St. James Parish. The membership rejected this proposal, but found to its chagrin, that without warning whatsoever, St. James Parish Council 10337 was formed a year later, only a few blocks from Council 1186 club rooms. Council 1186 members were quite offended at the time, but have mustered a stiff upper lip and continued to do good deeds, albeit with lesser resources.

One of the single most significant events in the Council’s recent history, was when it became associated with Sacred Heart Parish on January 1, 1992 after 85 years of existence. For what was once Calgary’s only Council for 51 years, this was a major re-adjustment and a rather stormy event.

Calgary Council 1186, which had 552 members at its peak in 1949 stands at 103 members as of January 7, 2007.

We remember our Brother Knights who have gone to their rest in the hope of rising again. Among those in more recent times were twenty past Grand Knights, three of whom were also Past State Deputies, and two Former Masters of the 4th Degree. Clint Carmody died in 1981, PSD Ray Cannon in 1984, Noel Dodge in 1985, Joe Comessotti and Dr. Murray McMaffery in 1986, Courtney Hughes, and PSD and FM Frank Trainor (a member of the Council for 67 years) in 1987, Ed O’Connor in 1988, Jack Van Tighem in 1991, Donatus Weisgerber in 1992, Joseph Murphy in 1997, Harley Langton in 2002, Pat Balyk in 2005, Cliff Howes in 2006, and those who were no longer members, Larry Frantz in 1989, Fairlie Spark in 1990, PSD and FM Len Hergott in 1994, Ed Torsher in 1996, Adolph Shaffler in 2000, John (Curly) Hunt in 2006. Also, 101 year old, and member for 71 years, Bob Sinclair died In 1986, veteran and beloved

Degree Team member Brother Ervie Doran in 1988, last surviving charter member of Calgary's Fr. Doucet 4th Degree Assembly, and Council member John J. Fitzpatrick in 1989. Beloved friend of the Order, Msgr. J.Q. Killen (State Chaplain 1953 - 1957) died December 4, 1984. Tragic deaths happened in January 1989 when Brother Maurice Bourque and his wife Evelyn, were killed in a car accident, and in April 1991, Brother Antonio Ponce drowned while ice fishing. The Council was saddened at the death of Father Louis Malo on March 23, 2005, at his favorite Mission in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Father Malo had been a long time, and popular member, of Council 1186, and, had spent many years in the missions of South America. He was a frequent recipient of charity funds raised by Council 1186.

Transfer of members to other Councils always hurt, but especially so with the departure of four Past Grand Knights and of former Supreme Director Mike Collins in 1985. Another transfer of note was Brother Bill Mason, who had previously given up the office of Financial Secretary in May 1981, a position he held for 13 years, a record for the Council at that time. While such losses are difficult, there is always light at the end of the tunnel, and Bill's successor, Brother Joe MacNeil, now holds the record with 25.5 years as of January 2007. While on the subject of records, another one of note is the Secretary Treasurer for the Council's Lyceum Society, currently held by Brother Elmer Goetz. He has been Secretary Treasurer for over 35 years and counting. The first computerized membership roster was printed in February 1981 by PGK Eric Gale.

EARLY INITIATIONS

At the July 15, 1907 initiation, Council 1186 put on the first degree, Edmonton did the second, while Chicago did the third. This initiation received front page coverage in the July 18th issue of the Calgary Herald, "60 sturdy KC's set forth on a pleasant trip". After the initiation, the members set forth from the Alberta Hotel at 10:30 a.m. for Brother Pat Burns' Ranch, riding in every kind of vehicle, some on horseback, some in auto's and buggies, to return at "wee hours" in the morning. Forty nine members were initiated, including Joseph Van Tighem, a prominent banker from Strathmore, and father

of more recently deceased member Brother Jack Van Tighem. Pat Burns himself was in the first degree class, but apparently was too incensed to complete the third degree at this time. In November 1907, twenty five members went to Edmonton to put on the second degree. At the July 1908 initiation, Council 1186 put on the first and second degrees. The banquet that followed was held at the Eagles Hall at a cost of \$0.80 a plate. In May 1909, Council 1186 put on the first and second degrees at the formation of the Cranbrook Council. In 1913, the initiation reception was held at the Al Azar Hall, with the ladies of the Extension Society catering at \$1.50 per plate. In 1917, the initiation banquet was held at the Palliser Hotel, with Bishop McNally as guest speaker. The cost \$1.25 per plate. A slight mishap during the initiation of January 1919 resulted in Brother Creagan getting a tetanus infection. According to Brother Sid Robbins, a pellet gun hit him in the leg. Sadly, he died from the infection at the tender age of 35. He was a stalwart member of the Council, having been Grand Knight and State Deputy in 1914 - 1915.

By 1933, initiations were no longer front page news, the November 1933 initiation being relegated to the third page of the Herald, which stated that there were 79 new members

WARS AND THE DEPRESSION

Council Minutes make no reference to either the beginning nor the end of the World Wars. The front page of the October 21, 1916 Calgary Herald reported the death of charter member Bryon Keating, killed in action. Also killed in action during the devastating final months of World War I were Brothers Toole, Deegan, Dunphy, McDonald and Hickey. In 1917, Brother Cliff Reilly spoke of his experience at the "Front". An Honor Roll unveiled in January 1918 lists 21 members in active service. K. of C. Army Huts were not opened in Alberta during this war, because of overlap with kindred organizations. Council 1186 and the CWL, however, did provide \$17,816.00 in financial support, through tag days, collections and donations.

During the second World War, the Council Honor Roll lists 80 members in active service. Among the most prominent being

Flying Officer Jack Van Tighem, and Fred Colburne Jr., both of whom were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Brother Colonel Robert E. Lucy was awarded the Military Cross and had the MBE conferred on him by King George VI. The only member to die in this war was Brother Marshall (Mike) Sheedy, who tragically drowned in the last days of the war in Holland.

The Council played a very active part in the Army Hut program during World War II, and by 1940 had collected \$6,792.00 toward this project, \$1,000.00 of which was donated by the P. Burns Company. Brothers Art Kloepfer, Tom McKenna, C.C. Connolly and Ray Cannon were very active in the Air Force Hut operated out of Sacred Heart Parish Hall. This Hut had the distinction of being named the best of its kind in Canada. Brother Tom McKenna reportedly spent three nights a week doing Army Hut work.

During what is now known as the "Dirty Thirties", the Council was probably at its prime. At most meetings in the Chauncey and Lougheed Buildings, the Council Chambers would be crowded to capacity (as high as 92 recorded attendance). Discussion at these meetings was not only lively, but at times became acrimonious. Because brothers could not afford to do anything else, they attended the meetings quite regularly. Under the leadership of such greats as Grand Knights Kenny, McCaffery, Tighe, Cannon and Trainor, the depression years proved very eventful at Council 1186. Debating, choral works, study clubs, sports and lecturer programs were enthusiastically supported.

Dances were held once a month at the Palliser Hotel, and picnic attendance was as high as 500. These years also saw involvement with the Lacombe Home Orphanage at Midnapore. In 1932, because unemployment was high, initiation fees were reduced to \$15.00, withdrawal and reinstatement was made easier. In 1935, Brother J.B. McGuire set up an employment service for Knights in his law office.

CLUB ROOMS

Over the years, Council 1186 had more than a dozen different homes, starting out with the first five years in the Old St. Mary's Hall at 141 - 18th Avenue S.W. While here the property holding

“Columbus Company” was set up, and at a September 1911 meeting, 120 shares were sold. The funds (\$12,000.00) were used to purchase 4 lots (100ft. frontage) on 12th Avenue West, opposite P. Burns Estate on what is now the old Colonel Belcher Hospital site. The lots were subsequently sold sometime after 1917. St. Mary’s Hall was rented for two nights a month at \$200.00 per year. Meetings were held on the second and fourth Mondays at 8:30 p.m.

In March 1912, the Council moved to the J.A. Nolan Hall at 127a - 8th Avenue West, thus beginning 33 years of continued presence in the heart of downtown Calgary. These 33 years, in the memories of many, were probably the golden years of Council 1186 in terms of a high degree of fraternity, sociability and prestige in the community.

In July 1913, the Council moved to the top floor of the Burns Block at 803 Centre Street South where its membership expanded rapidly to over 300 hundred members. In 1914 a refrigerator was purchased for the club rooms at the amazing price of \$7.00. In January 1921, after 7.5 years in the Burns Block, the Council spent nine months in the McLean Block at 109 - 8th Avenue East. Then in October 1921, the Council moved to the Sandstone Hall at 136a - 8th Avenue East and stayed for 1.5 years. At this time the Club Room doors were open from 6:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and both morning and evening papers, plus two Catholic papers were provided. No games of chance were allowed.

It was in February 1922 that the Council’s Columbus Company was replaced by the Catholic Lyceum (later Lyceum Society), with Brother Fred Kenny as its first president. In 1945 the “Lyceum Society of Calgary“, was registered under the Societies Act of Alberta, and is still active today, with assets being the K. of C. Hall and furnishings. In 1923, Council 1186 moved into the Chauncey Block at 116 - 8th Avenue East, where it occupied the top floor, and remained for 13 years. The longest in one place prior to its present hall. The Chauncey Block was built in 1907 and is still standing, but is now known as the Doll Block. The rent in 1927 was \$1,140.00 per year. From 1925 to 1936 with membership as high as 500, meeting attendance varied anywhere from 50 to 70 members. During these early years, Calgary’s Bishops, McNally and Kidd came out often to meetings. Bishop Monaghan was only to three meetings, while

Bishop Carroll attended two. A practice of draping the Council Charter in black upon the death of a brother was common until the 1960's

In 1931 while in the Chauncey Block, under GK Fred Kenny, the Council started what was called the "Kenny Pot" to encourage attendance. Members present at a meeting would toss a dime into the pot and one name would be drawn. If the member was present he won the pot, otherwise it carried over and eventually the winner won the cumulative pot. The fee was upped to fifty cents in 1979 and discontinued altogether shortly thereafter. The practice has, over the years, provided much joshing and a regular source of amusement.

There were many happy events and activities during the gay twenties in the Chauncey Block, apparently not too seriously dampened by the depression. However, again due to rental costs the Council, in 1936, upon a motion by Clair Cote, unanimously approved a move to the basement of the Lougheed Building at 6th Avenue and 1st Street West. These plush chambers were previously used by the Calgary Board of Trade. Rent was \$600.00 per year, gradually going up to \$960.00 by 1938. While here the Council bought a large pool table, and Frank Trainor donated a grandfather clock that still stands in the club rooms today. In 1942 a hand carved crib board was donated by Beiseker Council. Council 1186 remained in the Lougheed Building for 8.5 years. In March 1945, the Council left the downtown area, and for the next 1.5 years met in St. Mary's and then Sacred Heart Halls. In 1947 Ray Cannon reported that 125 members had contributed \$3,315.00 to a building fund. Shortly thereafter, December 1947, upon the advice of Clair Cote, the Council purchased the I.K. Kerr mansion at 628 - 12th Avenue West for \$18,000.00. According to Brother Ken Jones, Brother Cote waived his commission.

These new Council quarters, the first owned by the Council after renting for 40 years, were "superbly adapted to the requirements of the Council, and the landscaped grounds made it one of the show places of the City." It was to be Council 1186's home for 12 years until 1960. It had fine offices, a billiard room, card rooms, and an assembly room that could seat 150 members. Brother Tim Durick, as house manager, was a bit of an institution himself. This building,

which held many memories for KC Brothers throughout the City, was demolished in the late 1960's. Many sad and happy memories are associated with the difficult post-war years in this building. Among these was the housing of up to 134 Hungarian political refugees from January to March 1957.

Events which gradually eroded the strength of the Council as it reached 50 years of age, and a second peak in membership of 552 members in 1949, was firstly, formation of another Catholic men's association in the City called the Calysmen, established in 1954 by Brother Bert Sparrow. This was rapidly followed by the formation of the first other Councils in the City; 4622 in May 1958, 4749 in March 1959, 4878 in November 1959 and 4965 in May 1960, as well as, eight rural Councils during the 1950's. This devastating drain on the membership of 1186, primarily the younger members, who were eager to spread their wings, put a severe financial strain on the Council and by 1959 expenses exceeded revenue by \$200.00 a month. In February 1959 Brother Don Corns, seconded by Brother Clive Nugent, moved that the K. of C. building be sold. In November 1959, an offer of \$60,000.00 was accepted, and the building vacated on January 31, 1960. The Council's furniture and the small library, put together by Dr. Joe Moriarity, was stored in various places throughout the city, and most of it gradually disappeared. A few remnants grace the current club rooms, including the grandfather clock that was eventually returned to its rightful place. For the next nine years, the Council met in Sacred Heart Church Hall and later in Holy Name Hall. It was here that Bingo's were started on January 18, 1963, and ran for about five years.

On April 1, 1969, thanks to the initiative of Brother Phil Streifel and GK Bill Balyk, 1186 bought its second home, the previous St. James Church Hall at 2439 - 54th Avenue S.W., for the sum of \$40,000.00 plus \$1,186.00 (\$41,186.00). Ten thousand dollars worth of improvements were immediately made. This proved to be a very timely purchase in view of subsequent inflated property prices. The Council has remained in its present combined hall - club rooms - Council chambers since 1969. The building helped restore a sense of pride in Council 1186, and gave the Council new life. It has served us well for 38 years.

Up until 1987, the Hall was used for bingos and banquets, initially under the management of Brother Phil Streifel, and later, catered by Hall Manager Brother Leon Sherger. The Columbian Ladies ran the food concession until December 21, 1981. By this time the Council's Lyceum Society (the holding company) was struggling to make ends meet, with increasing taxes, utility and maintenance costs, versus rather modest revenue from hall rentals. Hall bingos were suspended in 1983, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to sell the Hall. In September 1984, thanks to Monsignor Joseph LeFort, fortune smiled on Council 1186 when, instigated by him, a steady source of significant income was established by renting the Hall to the Martinique Bridge Club for its sole use. This made the substantial overhead of the Hall and Club Rooms quite manageable. This arrangement is still in effect today, with the Bridge Club and the Knights happily coexisting under the same roof for over 22 years.

The steady income and improved finances enabled the Council to make improvements to its facility, and the club rooms were beautifully renovated in early 1985, at a cost of \$18,000.00 and the hall in 1987 for \$35,000.00

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

In 1908, the Council paid the funeral and doctor's expenses of the first Deputy Grand Knight, J.C. McDonald, and later those of H.O. Andrews in 1919. In 1908, a tent was set up on the grounds of the huge Dominion Fair for visiting brothers from all across Canada - incidentally, a dirigible was flown at this fair!

At a meeting in October 1907, Ed Ryan moved that no smoking be allowed at meetings - the motion was soundly defeated. However, smoking was finally banned at meetings in the 1970's. On July 31, 1917, a motion by PGK Creagan was passed, that a committee of three be appointed to look into the case of a certain Catholic man in the City who "apparently is not in full use of his senses"! In 1938 the cost of food for a Communion Breakfast was recorded; bacon 35 cents a pound, bread 10 cents a loaf and coffee

35 cents a pound. In 1949 Brother Tighe is quoted as mischievously saying that Brother Cannon had a “knack for stirring up things at meetings”.

In 1907, an arrangement was made with the Holy Cross Hospital, to provide a K. of C. ward at half the regular rate to Brother Knights, for a cost of \$400.00 per year to the Council. A \$100.00 Emergency Relief Fund for Brother Knights was set up in 1923.

It was common practice in early years to commemorate Charter Day with a social about January 7th, often at the classy Palliser Hotel. In 1925, the Council joined the Elks in a Bridge Tournament, and in 1933, the Shriners in a Golf Tournament. The latter tournament was run by Brother Frank Berke who, in the 1970's could still score his age at 84. The tournament was won by indefatigable Brother Joe English, who was still golfing every day while in his 80's. In recent years, Council 1186, and later Chapter, participated in joint golf tournaments and Sunday breakfasts with the Shriners and the Masons. Low attendance led to the gradual phasing out of both activities.

LECTURER'S PROGRAMS

In the early years through the 1920's the Lecturer's programs included a lot of song and music by Brother Knights, or guests, but during the depression things got more serious with concerns for social action. In 1915, the gym class under Brother Pooche gave a creditable account of itself in the “manly art of boxing and drilling”. In February 1917, the first motion pictures were shown. In 1920, Brothers Mayer and M.C. Costello former GK, gave a “splendid” address on the Boy Scout Movement. In 1919, GK Henry Lunney passed out cigars after a meeting, a common practice then. In 1921, the ladies showed up for the first time with music by Nora Hoar and Mrs. Reg McLean

In 1925, Brother Dr. Sam Slipper, first President of the Society of Petroleum Geologists, talked about the fledgling oil industry. Famous cowboy Guy Weadick, (Stampede Board Manager), addressed the Council, and the honorable R.B. Bennett (later Prime Minister of Canada) spoke to the members. In 1926, Brother Ernie McCullough (Maclin Ford) showed movies of the Ford Plant, and led the brothers in sing songs with nimble piano fingers. Also, in the

same year, the Ukrainian Orchestra performed, kiddies danced, ladies gave piano recitals, and future GK Burgard gave a vocal recital.

In 1927, Brother Fr. Rouleau (son of Charter Member Dr. Rouleau) played the violin, and Brother Judge MacDonald spoke on the Canadian Constitution. In 1933, Brother J.J. Bowlen talked on the wheat situation, and Fr. Doucette (first white man in Calgary) talked about his early experiences. Brother R. Choquette gave out free dry cleaning and press certificates through draws at meetings for about a four year period.

In 1936 and 1937, Master Paul O'Byrne (age 14) and later Bishop O'Byrne, sang solos. In 1937, Kay Stack (later Dr. Stack) entertained. In 1938, Brothers Cannon and Tighe had a spelling match. In 1939, a boxing match was displayed by St. Mary's Boy's Choir, and Brother Lamm's St. John's Parish choir sang Easter music. In 1951, Dr. McCaffery and Ray Cannon held a debate, also, Amby Gregg and George Pusey exhibited boxing. From 1953 to 1955, Brother Gregg's Lacombe Home boys showed off gymnastics. In 1958, famous oilman, Carl Nickel, showed slides of his trip to Europe, and so on. The Lecturer's programs have been a great vehicle for development of individuals, and of a spirit of community among brother Knights and their families over the years.

DRAMA, DEBATING AND CHORAL

During the 1930's, debating was at its prime in Calgary among practically every organization, producing keen competition and polished debaters. At the apex of debating clubs stood Council 1186 from its headquarters in the Chauncey Block. Two of the Council's outstanding debaters were Brothers Ray Cannon and Dr. J. Murray McCaffery. The Council's team participated in the International Debate of November 28, 1932 held in Calgary. In 1933, Brothers Winston Churchill and Maurice Goodeve successfully beat the Knox United Church team. On December 5, 1934, Brother McCaffery gave a spirited delivery in a debate under the auspices of the National Federation of Canadian University students debating an Oxford/Cambridge team. Brother McCaffery's position was that the League of Nations was ineffectual in contributing to world order, he lost.

Study clubs were active from the mid 1930's to mid 1940's to look into such matters as the cooperative movement, social justice and communism.

The Columbus Male Chorus was active in 1932 under Brother Tom Sutcliff, and put on an operetta at the Grand Theatre on November 10, 1932. In April 1933, 860 people attended a minstrel show held at the Al Azhar Temple. Among the minstrels was young Fred Colborne Jr. In 1937, Andy Marcin had an active glee club. The Columbian Players, started by Brother Fr. W. A. Coyle in 1947, came under Council 1186 sponsorship in 1949. They specialized in Gilbert and Sullivan operas such as "Trial By Jury" in 1951, and the "Mikado" in 1952.

ACTIVITIES: CHARITABLE AND SPIRITUAL

In 1911, funds were donated for the poor of St. Mary's Parish and to the Polish Church. In 1917, \$100.00 was sent to the Halifax Explosion Relief Fund. In 1921, 15 cents per capita was collected for aid to the Catholic Women's Immigrants, and \$100.00 to relief agencies in the City. In 1922, the Council responded to the Russian Relief Fund by having a tag day for "Save the Children". In 1925, money was given to the Japanese Relief Fund, and \$50.00 to the Sanitarium in 1924.

In November 1910, a \$300.00 scholarship fund was formally established for the education of seminarians, and carried on at least until 1926. In 1913, \$200.00 was donated to Bishop McNally, \$500.00 in 1919, \$1,000.00 in 1924. A silver tea set was presented to him on his departure in October 1924. At a Council meeting in December 1923, Bishop McNally, at the conclusion of his remarks, asked all who were willing to make a sacrifice for him to stand up - all members responded promptly, after which the nature of his request was made known. All were required to draw a ticket from a hat, the hour written thereon being the time that person was to attend adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at an around the clock 40 hour devotion.

Proceeds from the Council's one and only car raffle in August 1927, plus contributions from other councils in the Diocese, were used to buy Bishop Kidd a new \$1,930.00 Willys Whippet car with

which to travel the Diocese. The car was donated to him on January 25, 1929. In 1963, a committee headed by Brother Bill Balyk, collected tools and \$2,000.00 for a truck that was donated to Brother Fr. Jack McCarthy, a Missionary in the Dominican Republic. Brother Bill Balyk has also been responsible for annual contributions from the Council, to a fund for foreign seminarians since about 1965. It was also in 1965 that the Council donated \$1,000.00 to Mt. St. Francis Retreat Centre. Numerous other calls for assistance have been met through the years, thanks especially in recent years, to those brothers who have spent countless hours in smoke drenched Bingo Halls and Casinos.

Paddy Nolan, first GK was a frequent communicant, and so in order to encourage attendance by brother Knights, he instigated a motion that required all members to obtain a certificate of proof from their parish priest that they made their Easter Duty - if they had not, they were suspended. The minutes record several unexplained resignations shortly after.

In 1910, a sanctuary lamp was donated to the new Sacred Heart Church. In 1915, Mass times were put into hotels. In 1938, the Tivoli Theatre withdrew showing of the film "Blockade" after protests from brother Knights. In 1940, there were 87 members to a Communion Breakfast, and a whopping 138 on December 13, 1950. In 1942, the new Chaplain Fr. Doyle (1186's namesake) initiated radio broadcasts. In 1935, the Ogden Men's Hostel was provided with Catholic newspapers. Wheelchairs were donated to Brother Mat Sheedy in 1930 and Brother Stan Murdoch in 1953. In 1938, the Council sent a Christmas card to every K. of C. Council in Canada. It was also in 1938, and continuing for several years, that Jimmy Condon, a prominent local restaurateur helped the Council in serving hundreds of Christmas turkey dinners for needy persons. In January 1955, a Mass to celebrate Alberta's 50th Jubilee was held at the Stampede Corral, a function co-ordinated by the Council. Mass times were put in the City phone directory, but eventually became too costly, even on a chapter basis, and was discontinued.

MEMORIAL SERVICES AND PRAYERS

One of the chief purposes of the Order has been to hold a Memorial Service annually to honor and pray for the souls of departed brothers. Also, Council 1186 has gathered its brothers together over the years on the occasion of the death of a brother Knight. This has been an outward demonstration of our Brotherhood as we have come together with our Chaplain to pray, and has been one of 1186's most beneficial functions and most fraternal practices. The annual Memorial Service has become a Chapter function with participation of all councils within the city.

SOCIAL ACTION

The depression of the 1930's spurred an interest in social action, centering around the Church throughout the world, aided by the increasing threat of the Communist movement. In 1933, this was evidenced in Council 1186 by a visit from Fr. Coady PhD of Antigonish, Nova Scotia, who spoke on the Co-op Movement.

In 1934, Fr. Green spoke on "Laying the Cornerstone for Reconstruction of the Social Order", and Brother Chas. Burns formed a study club to analyze the "Coady Institutes Co-operative Movement", supplemented by lectures on the subject by Brother Ray Cannon.

Dr. McCaffery, in 1935, deplored the lack of united effort by various Catholic societies and advocated a concerted effort in Catholic action. In 1936, a resolution was passed condemning persecution of Christians by Mexican communists. In 1937, the study group tackled "Economics and Communism", and Brother Cannon's first job as chairman of a Catholic Action Committee was to cope with the Birth Control Association. In 1939, a letter was received from the State Deputy urging a crusade for Social Justice.

In 1939, a letter was sent to Calgary City Hall protesting use of public funds for support of the Birth Control Association, a controversy still raging in Calgary. Brother Fr. Pat O'Byrne entered the scene of social action, and over the next few years spearheaded many programs in the Council. In 1947, Fr. Pat, Bert Ryan and Joe

Murphy conducted a panel on labour unions. In more recent times Council 1186 has been very active in support of the pro-life movement, thanks to the efforts of Brother Bill Balyk and others, over a period of forty years. Thousands of dollars have been raised and directed to this great cause.

FUND RAISING AND CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Council has been involved in a number of different fund raising ventures. While bingo at the K. of C. Hall has already been mentioned, the Council also participated in bingos at the Silver Dollar Bingo Barn for several years, starting in March 1985. Bingo was eventually dropped in favor of the less time consuming Charity Casinos. In 1983, a Grey Cup raffle netted \$968.00, \$250.00 went to Birthright and \$718.00 to St. James Senior Citizens Home. In November 1985, \$500.00 was sent to the Mexican Earthquake Relief Fund. The Knights for Moms campaign raised \$1,371.00 in May 1986. Selling refreshments at Calgary Stampeder Football games started in the fall of 1984 and continues to this day. Annual revenue from this project has varied between \$500.00 and \$3,000.00 per year.

In 1986, the Council commenced raising funds by operating Charity Casinos, and has raised \$451,038.00 through this heavily government regulated event. At the request of the Alberta NWT Bishops, the Knights in Alberta have reluctantly discontinued this, morally unacceptable fund raising activity, and Council 1186 conducted its final Charity Casino in June 2006.

Following is how these earnings have been allocated - Community services (including Camp Cadicasu youth camp and Birthright) 41%, Church and Missions 21%, Catholic Education (including St. Mary's University College) 20%, Council Projects and hall repairs 18%.

Since Camp Cadicasu was chartered in 1951, the Council has contributed much in terms of man power and funding. Also, as a tribute to the Council's centennial, plans are in progress to set up a \$100,000.00 Endowment Fund, the proceeds designated to the "Enhancement of Student Life" at St. Mary's University College.

Council 1186 did not raise money or donate charity funds to the 2004 Tsunami in Southeast Asia, nor the New Orleans Hurricane

of 2005, preferring to encourage members to donate directly to State and Supreme office where funds were being collected and tax receipts issued.

FRATERNAL/FAMILY/COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Largely due to the efforts of Brother Roman Hawryluk and GK George Huber, Council 1186 established the first Squires Circle in Calgary with an initiation at St. Mary's Cathedral on January 24, 1965. It was named Fr. Lacombe Circle, and had a relatively short life, as it was disbanded a few years later.

Only a few such activities are recorded. In June 1980, a two day family camp out and picnic was held on Brother Leon Sherger's acreage. In October 1981, several members painted handicapped Brother Tom Inverarity's house. In 1988, "Brotherhood Watch" was started by Brother Lou Tremblay. This was a program for keeping in contact with senior members who were not able to attend meetings. Brother Bill Balyk has had a personal ministry for years of phoning widows of deceased Brothers on a regular basis, to see how they were doing. It was during this time the Council also had a project for many years, of visiting and delivering some thoughtful gift each Christmas to senior Brothers and to our widows.

Starting in 1994, and continuing for several years, senior members of the Council gathered in the club rooms on Thursday afternoons during the winter months for cards, darts Mexican horseshoes and fellowship. This was eventually discontinued due to the lack of support. The Council has had Christmas parties for Brothers and wives for years. One of Brother Ed Langton's personal projects for several years, was preparing Irish Stew for members on the meeting night closest to St. Patrick's Day.

Council 1186 members and their wives had a large presence at the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1988, with volunteers working at various venues throughout the games. Members and their wives were also actively involved at the 1996 Canadian Special Olympic Winter Games held in Calgary, and are looking forward to the Special Olympics Alberta Provincial Games scheduled for February 2007.

In 1996, the Council, in partnership with Council 4878,

purchased a special hospital bed for Fr. Stephen Molnar, a patient at the Sarcee Nursing Home at the time. In 1997, an antique typewriter, adding machine and addressograph were donated to Fort Calgary, and can be seen there with a plaque showing Council 1186 as the donor.

Since the Council's new association with Sacred Heart Parish, members have helped at parish picnics, held garage sales, and each year, participate and organize the delivery of Christmas hampers to the poor in the parish. In 2003, the Council donated sheets and pillows to the parish for its Inn From The Cold Program. Monthly waffle breakfasts started by Brother Art Blott a few years ago, has in 2006, under the initiative of Brother Martin McDonald, evolved into a very popular pancake breakfast. The Council has also participated in entertaining at senior citizen's homes, presenting high school trophies and other community activities. In the fall of 1994, the Council adopted two miles of Highway 8 on the west edge of the city. This commits the Council to one cleanup per year. Due to the City's expansion, this project has been moved to Highway 22, just south of Bragg Creek.

CELEBRATIONS

The Council had gala celebrations at the Palliser Hotel for its 75th Anniversary on January 9, 1982, and, for the 85th on January 4, 1992. There were about 400 attendees at the 75th, including 101 year old Brother Bob Sinclair. This event also served as the Provincial Past State Deputy's Ball in honor of PSD Stan Turner, and the 100th anniversary of the Order on March 29, 1882. The 85th anniversary banquet and dance also doubled as a "Quincentennial Eyeopener", the Council's special celebration of Columbus' arrival in North America. There were 228 in attendance, including Calgary's world famous opera singer Allan Monk, who entertained the guests royally. The 90th anniversary celebration was perhaps less notable, and was billed as "Msgr. Doyle Council 1186, 90th Anniversary & Awards Night", celebrating 90 years of Knighthood in Alberta and 100 years for the Knights of Columbus in Canada. The event was held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Kensington Branch on Friday April 25, 1997.

Planning for the Council's centennial in 2007 has been a work in progress for several years, with three major events on the drawing board.

Although not represented in any official capacity, a few Brothers attended the September 16, 1982 open air Mass with his Holiness Pope John Paul II at Edmonton. Brother Don Weisgerber was thrilled to shake hands with his Holiness and get a rosary from him. The Council was active in selling Papal souvenirs to help finance his visit, selling \$4,000.00 worth.

SUPREME, STATE AND CHAPTER

In 1908 or 1909, Territorial Deputy Paddy Nolan, as delegate to the Supreme Convention in New York, gave such an eloquent speech that it captured a column and a half in the New York Sun, "P.J. Nolan of Calgary - wherever that may be!", and established in yet another way, a precedent which was a hard act to follow. In 1910, Brother Ed F. Ryan composed a poem at the Supreme Convention in Quebec City, which he published in the January 1929 "Pilot" just before he died.

In the early years, a visit from the Supreme Knight was not uncommon. Special meetings were held in October 1912 for Supreme Knight James Flaherty, at which time Pat Burns, and others, donated the use of their cars. Flaherty came again in 1927, just prior to turning over the gavel to Supreme Knight Carmody, who visited Calgary in 1933, when a reception was held at the Palliser Hotel. Apparently this was the last visit to Council 1186 by a Supreme Knight.

Until the 1960's and starting with Paddy Nolan, Council 1186 played a large role in Alberta State Affairs, providing thirteen of about fifty State/Provincial Deputies. With the first three and fifth being from Council 1186. State Conventions were held very frequently in Calgary, with about 24 conventions between 1914 and 1940 being held here, very often in the Council Chambers.

On the local scene, Calgary Chapter was formed on February 10, 1960 by State Deputy Len Hegott, to co-ordinate activities of the increasing number of councils in the city. Chapter initially consisted of four councils, gradually increasing to well over thirty at the present time.

PROJECTS OVER THE YEARS

Newsletters

Over the years the Council had many different types of newsletters, at least as far back as 1910. Starting in 1928, under GK Phil Burgard, an ambitious four page edition called "The Pilot" was put out, and continued for a period of about three years. Also from 1951 to 1957, an extremely good newsletter was put out under the title "Compass" with Brother Vince Coony as first editor, and Brother Joe Comessotti as managing editor. These newsletters have been immensely useful in compiling this history, and are kept in the Diocesan Archives.

Stampede Parade Floats

Council 1186 entered floats in 1925, 1929, 1930, 1932, and, in co-operation with Calgary Chapter, in the mid 1970's. The float of 1925 featured Christianity in the West with Fr. Doucet from Cluny. Fr. Doucet rode on the float in 1929 and was pictured in the Calgary Herald. The Winnipeg Free Press stated that this KC float was "the unique feature of the Parade". The Exhibition had allotted first place in the parade to Calgary's first citizen. The float had Fr. Doucet sitting before a tepee and surrounded by natives. The inscription read "Fr. Doucet OMI, 1875 - 1929, Calgary's first missionary - arrive a Calgary le Mai 1875, recu la Police 30 Mai 1875" (from the Pilot August 1929). The Calgary Chapter float of 1975, in the Grey Cup Parade, was seen on international television.

The Annual Lacombe Home Christmas Tree

The Council's involvement with the Lacombe Home at Midnapore goes back, at least to 1919, when \$100.00 was donated in this direction. In 1936, Christmas gifts were given to the Lacombe Home and Woods Christian Homes. For the next 25 years or more, the Council, initially under the faithful committee chairmanship of Brother A.G. (Mac) McKernan, sponsored the "Christmas Tree" concerts for the children living at the home. From 1952 to 1955, Brother Amby Gregg taught gymnastics to the boys there. In 1958, a television set was donated by Council 1186.

High School And Holy Cross Nurses Medals

From 1917 to 1927 cash prizes were awarded to top high school students. Over the 36 years from 1929 to 1965, medals were awarded. Essay contests on the topic of Christopher Columbus were sponsored for several years from 1914. Medals were awarded from 1945 to 1965 to nurses at the Holy Cross Hospital for "General Proficiency and Moral Ethics".

Camp Cadicasu

In August 1922, \$100.00 was donated for boys of "unfortunate circumstances" to go to summer camp. This type of support continued over the years, and in 1946 repair work was done at this camp, run for years by Fr. Smith (later Monsignor Smith) for the altar boys at St. Mary's Cathedral. In March 1950, Fr. (later Bishop) O'Byrne at the express wish of Bishop Carroll, gave notice of motion that the Knights of Columbus undertake the work of setting up a Diocesan Boy's Camp on 21 scenic acres of land near the Elbow River at Bragg Creek. By December 1950, Brother Bert Sparrow's committee had raised \$3,394.00 through raffles, etc.

At first, informal noon lunches in the Coffee Shop of the Wales Hotel took place almost daily. Brothers Walter Stanford, Ernie Lamm, Joe Comessotti, Len Hergott, Vince Cooney and Bert Sparrow worked on a general plan of the camp. The name Cadicasu was made up from the first two letters of "Calgary Diocesan Catholic Summer" (Camp). The Camp was chartered in February 1951, with twelve named representatives from Council 1186. In 1954, Brother Joe Comessotti headed a fundraising drive, and for the next few years, brother Knights built most of the buildings and pool. In January 1958, Brother Russ Hampton moved that Council 1186 offer a Chapel at an estimated cost of \$4,400.00. The Chapel was built, furnished, and the final payment made in January 1963.

The day Camp Cadicasu opened lived long in the memory of many brothers. Brother Dr. Moriarity sat in the main lobby of the clubrooms on 12th Avenue checking the medical fitness of the youngsters before they were put in a fleet of cars furnished by brother Knights, to take the long 25 mile ride to camp.

1953 was the first time that the terrible roads were braved for a Council picnic at the Camp in order to stimulate support for Camp Cadicasu among the Knights. These picnics became an annual affair, gradually involving other newly formed Councils. This step was a valuable fraternal contribution, encouraging family outings and softball games between Councils. Currently the camp is operated by the "Camp Cadicasu Association" under the direction of Executive Director Mike Nelson, with the Knights continuing to have representation on the Board through the Calgary Chapter of the Knights of Columbus. Sadly, on January 23, 2006, the dining hall burned to the ground, necessitating temporary facilities for the 2006 camping season. Plans to rebuild on the site are somewhat tenuous, and indications are the camp will be relocated elsewhere.

Sports

Council 1186 has always had a very active interest in sports. Their hockey team won the Alberta Amateur Hockey Championship in 1911 and 1917, and again in 1937. In 1938, the Council stopped sponsoring midget and intermediate hockey in the provincial association due to having incurred large debts through this involvement. In the following years, members continued to organize amateur hockey tournaments with other Councils, and in more recent years on a province wide basis. In 1934, Brother Frank Trainor's hockey team won its section in a City League. In 1915, the Council won the City Baseball League Championship. Curling has also been a favorite sport in the last forty years or so, with many a team from the Council taking part in the Knights of Columbus Annual Provincial Bonspiel that continues to this day. The Big Four Rink on the Stampede Grounds, and later the Calgary Curling Club, hosted a Knights of Columbus Mixed Curling League with Council 1186 being well represented. In more recent years, golf has become very popular among the Knights, with annual Chapter and Provincial tournaments, as well as, The Annual Knights vs. Shriners tournament. After twenty some years, the latter has recently been discontinued. Members from Council 1186 could generally be found among the participants. During later years, Brother Ed Langton became the centre piece in Council sports, making sure the athletes were primed and practiced

for the up coming events. In August 1992, the annual Rutland, B.C. softball tournament was cancelled after 20 years running. Thanks to Brother Ed, Council 1186 had participated in this event for many years.

Bowling

The Council's Five Pin Bowling League has had the longest continued history of any Council activity, and was held in the memory of many as one of the most enjoyable fraternal events.

It had its beginning in January 1930 through the efforts of Brother A.G. (Mac) McKernan, starting out and continuing for many years in the newly opened Gibson's Saratoga Alleys. Despite the depression, the League grew through the thirties, and in 1939, the ladies entered the scene with six teams organized by Mrs. Frank (Clare) Berke. By the 1950's bowling hit the peak of its popularity, with more than 100 Knights and their ladies out every Thursday night. Bill (Curly) Bombardieri ran the League for some time, followed by Vince Cooney and Cy Holloway. The Amantea brothers, Bill Galleli, Father Lynett and a host of others, will never be forgotten for the enjoyment they brought to so many. The Annual Bowling Banquet was always one of the years most popular occasions. With the break-up of Council 1186 into other City Councils in the late 1950's, support for bowling began to drop off and the League was discontinued in 1965, only to be reorganized in 1974. This time it included Council's 4878 and 6488, and while not as large as before, it was hoped to grow into as many teams as in the "good old days". The original League trophy donated in 1930 by the Grand Knight at the time, Brother Fred Kenny, was still in use, as was the single high trophy donated by Brother Frank Trainor in 1937, along with the high three trophy donated by Brother Jim Rooney. Sadly, the rebirth faltered as well, and the League was eventually discontinued.

The Separate School Board And Council 1186

Up until 1968, thirteen of the twenty two men who served as Chairman of the Board were members of Council 1186, four of them were Charter members (Dr. Rouleau, James O'Gara, M. John Burns and Fred Kenny). Two were also State Deputies (Kenny and Trainor) and four Grand Knights (Burgard, Kenny, Trainor and Comessotti).

Many others served as Board members for up to ten years. Superintendents John Kinahan (1918 - 1940), Ray Cannon (1941 - awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Calgary).

The Columbian Ladies

As early as July 1908, Brother Peter Lyons suggested the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary. However, it was not until 1956 that Brother Jack Ryan made a successful motion that Council 1186 “favors the formation of a ladies group”. The first meeting of the “Columbian Ladies” was held on February 26, 1958, during the term of office of GK Ed Torsher, with Mrs. Cy (Marg) Holloway as the first president. The Columbian Ladies played a valuable supportive role, especially in the culinary field, helping at bingos and social events, and performing valuable work on behalf of immigrants. Once again the proliferation of new Councils resulted in decline of interest in the organization and it was disbanded, although a periodic pot luck dinner reunion is still being held every few years.

Roundup

Until the late twenties, the Council enjoyed a prestigious aura about it. Bishops attended meetings regularly, and its leadership tended to be drawn from the ranks of lawyers, doctors and business leaders. Despite the change away from this tendency in later years, Council 1186 has had a considerable impact on Calgary’s Catholic Community, through a steady flow of action by Knights from all walks of life. Many outstanding Knights, epitomized by men such as Frank Trainor and Tom McKenna, have passed through the ranks of this Council, directing their energies for the benefit of their fellow Catholics and their faith, in the years just preceeding and during the dawn of the so called age of the laity. In so doing, many benefited themselves, and those around them, from the opportunities provided to exercise their leadership roles, to witness their faith, and to develop a Christian brotherhood that cut across normal cultural, parish, social and even religious boundaries. These benefits have, through the years, been especially realized by those who were not native Calgarians, and who were not part of the establishment which generally seems to develop

as a characteristic of social stratification and urban growth. In a world that is becoming increasingly hostile and alienated through promotion of materialistic self interest, it would appear that the Order is one of the last strongholds of Christian brotherhood.

Be our record as it may, it is the ardent wish of the brothers of Council 1186 to become even more relevant and beneficial in playing a positive and supportive role in the Catholic community and beyond. We, of Monsignor Doyle Council, give thanks to God that the current membership possesses the same faith, desire for action and usefulness of spiritual social purpose, that it had in its formative years of “the dim past of long ago”.



**Council 1186 Hall
2419 - 54 Ave. S.W.**